

INDIAN FRONTIER
WAR.THE FIGHT IN THE MALA-
KAND PASS.GRAPHIC NARRATIVE BY AN
OFFICER.FANATIC PLUCK OF THE
SWATIS.INCITED TO RESIST BY THEIR
PRIESTS.

PROCLAMATION BY THE VICEROY.

A Central News telegram from Dargai on Thursday morning says:—An officer who was in the fighting line has furnished the following narrative of the storming of the Malakand Pass:—Early in the morning the second brigade commenced the march from Dargai towards the Malakand Pass. The road lay up the bed of a mountain stream and the travelling was bad. The Scottish Borders led the advance at the outset, the native regiment bringing up the rear. Trouble commenced early, some shots being fired at half past nine from the lower hills in the valley at the entrance to the Malakand Pass. The Highlanders were halted, and the guides, infantry ordered to the front and directed to clear the heights on the left flank, whence the enemy kept up an irregular fire. This serviceable corps went up the hills in extended order in most workmanlike manner, and as the fire began to tell we could see the swarms of Swatis preparing to resist a close attack. The Borderers brought their Maxim's into very effective play, but the enemy kept well sheltered, and were only driven back point by point as the guides made good their advance. The hills were difficult to climb, and the guides were a long time performing their task of clearing the sangers on the summit. The enemy were incited to further resistance by their priests, who carried flags, and waved them at the rallying points. The enemy were white garments, making an effectual mark for our infantry. From these lower heights we could distinctly see with our glasses further defences in the pass itself, and they seemed very extensive. Until the heights were occupied the Borderers remained halted, but as soon as the guides had accomplished their work the order to advance was given, the remainder of the brigade being by this time close up. The march up the valley continued cautiously, but steadily. The path gradually narrowed to a spot where there was a sharp turn in the pass, and here the enemy had made his strongest works. The position was admirably chosen. It commanded the pass effectually, and enabled the enemy to work with a minimum of risk. Sangers were numerous and easily managed and the enemy's fire was continuous, and at times heavy. There was a protracted halt while the mountain batteries and machine guns were brought into action. The execution wrought was great, but insufficient to break down the enemy's dogged resistance. At this stage the first brigade came up in support, and more guns were brought into play. Then the Scottish Borders, the Gordon Highlanders, and the 3rd Guards from the first brigade were sent up the hills on the left of the pass to dislodge the Swatis. But the enemy was not yet beaten. Through the walls of their sangers had been destroyed, they still stood their ground and waited the Highlanders' charge, firing steadily upon our advancing troops. It was a terrible scramble up the steep hillsides, but the Scotsmen with marvellous agility were over the rugged boulders and into the sangers in double-quick time. They accomplished more with the bayonet than the gun had done all day, and carried position after position with the greatest gallantry. Meantime, the guides' infantry had been ordered up the opposite flank, and carried assault some sangers that had been erected upon an eminence. It was a smart piece of work, and they followed it up by working steadily down to the lower ridges beyond, whence they threatened the enemy's rear. The enemy were not slow to note this change, and the Highlanders, still charging and cheering upon their other flank, completed the discomfiture of the Swatis. They turned and fled, pursued by the guides a short distance, and at two o'clock the pass was in our hands. It was a tough engagement and well contested. Our men speak eulogistically of the prowess of the enemy, many of whom, especially at first, waited the charge and fought it out square against bayonets. The general opinion, based upon to-day's fight, is that against artillery and good troops the hill tribesmen cannot offer effective resistance. The number of Swatis in the sangers at the head of the pass numbered about 1,500. We lost 40 men, but the Swatis' loss was very heavy. The completeness of their rout was largely due to the particularly skilled manoeuvring of the guides' corps on the heights, which threatened to turn the enemy's position. Upon inquiry I learn that the expenditure of ammunition was enormous. The Lee-Metford rifles and the cartridge ammunition worked very successfully, and no grumbling has been heard on that score. Even the volkiring was both smokeless and noiseless. The Malakand Pass is still held by the second brigade. The first brigade has gone through with supplies, and will march to-day to the Wanze Ferry, on the Swat River, which will be held. The third brigade has arrived here. General Low's headquarters are still at Dargai.

REPORTED BRITISH PRISONERS.

A Central News telegram from Calcutta on Friday says:—An official telegram from the front states that a report had been brought to the effect that Umra Khan has two British officers and seven sepoys in his train as prisoners. If this report is well founded, there can be little doubt that the officers are Lieutenant Fowler and Edwards, and the remnants of their small force. There is nothing inconsistent with this in the character of Umra Khan. It is feared, however, that every fresh success of the British forces will increase the danger to which the captives are necessarily exposed in the midst of wild tribesmen, and religious fanatics. Umra Khan, when last heard of, was pushing on to Mundar. He will receive considerable reinforcements at that place, and will, undoubtedly, make another determined stand.

**STORMS DELAY ADVANCE OF
BRITISH REINFORCEMENTS.**

A Reuter's telegram from Simla on Friday says:—A determined effort is being made by the British troops operating from the Gilgit side to force their way into Chitral, in order to co-operate with Sir R. Low's column, which is advancing from the south. Colonel Kelly, who has been placed in command of the Gilgit district, and who has been encamped at Ghizla since the 25th of March, made a resolute effort to reach Mastuj, a post about 50 miles north-east of Chitral Fort, but he encountered binding snowstorms, and, after arduous marches, was forced to return to Ghizla, having been unable to pass on in the deep snow. Captain Barrodale, with a party of 200 pioneers, 50 Cashmiri sappers, and 5 Hunza levies, has, however, been left at the village of Feru, with orders to do his utmost to advance with muley transport only. Colonel Kelly will follow him when the roads are practicable for muley transport.

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of the country. This will probably be a point of concentration of the British forces before the advance is resumed, and by the last advice a large gathering of the enemy is being collected there. The 2nd Brigade is not yet over the Malakand Pass. A large part of its transport is being conveyed on canals, and in the present broken condition of the road through the defile it is most difficult to get these beasts forward. The Russians who took part in the defence of the Malakand Pass and came in for a good share of the fighting have made their submission.

A Reuter's telegram from Malakand on Friday, dated 5.35 p.m., says the enemy were found in force beyond the valley. They consisted of Duri tribesmen, and the 1st Brigade at once proceeded to engage them. The fighting was stubborn, and while it was in progress the Ghazis attempted to rush the British lines. A similar onslaught was expected to be made on the bivouacs of the troops in the field. Eventually the enemy's advance was stopped. Later on the Guidon Cavalry charged and compelled the Ghazis to retire with loss.

PROCLAMATION BY THE VICEROY.

The Press Association is officially informed that the following is the text of a proclamation issued by the Viceroy to the Swatis and other tribes on the Peshawar frontier prior to the capture of the Chitral Relief Expedition:—

"Umra Khan, in spite of repeated assurances of friendship to the British Government and regardless of frequent warnings to refrain from interfering with the affairs of Chitral, a protected State under the suzerainty of Kashgar, has forcibly entered the Chitral Valley, and attacked the Chitral people. The Government of India have warned Umra that unless he retires from Chitral by April 1 they will use force to compel him. They have arranged to assemble on the Peshawar border a force of sufficient strength to overcome all resistance, and to march this force through Umra's territory towards Chitral. The sole object of the Government of India is to put an end to the present and prevent any future unlawful aggression in Chitral territory, and as soon as this object has been attained the force will be withdrawn. The Government of India have no intention of permanently occupying any territories through which Umra's misconduct may now force them to pass, or of interfering with the independence of the tribes, and they will scrupulously avoid any acts of hostility towards tribesmen so long as, on their part, refrain from attacking or impeding in any way the march of our troops. Supplies and transport will be paid for, and all persons are at liberty to pursue their ordinary avocations in perfect security."

THE KILLED AND WOUNDED.

The Press Association on Friday says:—With reference to yesterday's news of the fighting at the Malakand Pass, the India Office has not received any details as to those wounded or killed, though this information is, of course, expected. It is explained that the Viceroy is moving his office and staff from Calcutta to Simla, and was not expected at the latter place till this afternoon, and, as any dispatches would come through the Viceroy, there would be a possibility of delay through failing to deliver news to him at any given point on his journey. In subsequent engagements, should they occur, it is unlikely that relatives in this country of troops in action will be kept so long waiting for official information as to casualties, &c.

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The "Pall Mall Gazette" in a late edition on Friday evening publishes the following telegram from its own correspondent:—"Allahabad, Friday. The first and second brigades of the Chitral force under General Kinloch and General Waterfield, reached the Malakand Pass yesterday. The third brigade, under General Gatacre, remains at Dargai. It has now been ascertained that the loss of the enemy in the fighting in the Malakand Pass amounted to about 500, while the loss of the British was fifteen killed and 30 wounded of the rank and file, in addition to officers. The complete list of officers wounded is as follows:—Captain M. Furlong and Lieutenant Coke of the Scottish Borders; Lieutenant Hesketh (7), Major Burney, and Lieutenant Watt, of the Gordon Highlanders; Lieutenant Ommaney, of the Guides Infantry; Major Tonnelly, and Captain Sibthorpe, of the Royal Rifles. Lieutenant Fowler, of the Sappers, and Lieutenant Edwards, of the Sikhs, are prisoners with Umra Khan. There is no news from Chitral or Mastuj."

THE EASTERN WAR.

FORMOSA OFFERED FOR SALE.

A Central News telegram from Madrid says:—A determined effort is being made by the British troops operating from the Gilgit side to force their way into Chitral, in order to co-operate with Sir R. Low's column, which is advancing from the south. Colonel Kelly, who has been placed in command of the Gilgit district, and who has been encamped at Ghizla since the 25th of March, made a resolute effort to reach Mastuj, a post about 50 miles north-east of Chitral Fort, but he encountered binding snowstorms, and, after arduous marches, was forced to return to Ghizla, having been unable to pass on in the deep snow. Captain Barrodale, with a party of 200 pioneers, 50 Cashmiri sappers, and 5 Hunza levies, has, however, been left at the village of Feru, with orders to do his utmost to advance with muley transport only. Colonel Kelly will follow him when the roads are practicable for muley transport.

FEARFUL EXPLOSION IN
NEW ORLEANS.

A SALOON BLOWN UP.

FOURTEEN LIVES LOST.

A Reuter's telegram from New Orleans says:—A terrible explosion took place early on Friday morning in a saloon opposite the French Market. Fifteen persons were killed, and a number of others were injured. It is thought that the explosion was the work of members of the Italian secret society called the Mafia, but this has been disproved.

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PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Friday. The Lord Chancellor took his seat on the woolsack at a quarter past four o'clock.

The Army Annual Bill was read a third time.

The House adjourned at 25 minutes to five o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Speaker took the chair at five minutes past two o'clock.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

Mr. A. C. MORTON (L., Peterborough) called attention to the question of a second ballot at Parliamentary elections, and moved, "That it is desirable that permission should be made for a second ballot at Parliamentary elections in all cases where no candidate can obtain an absolute majority of the votes recorded."

Mr. HOLLAND (L., Salford, N.) seconded the motion.

Mr. ADDISON (C., Ashton-under-Lyne) said the result of such a proposal as was proposed would be that the first election would be sham. The second election would be the real struggle, but in the interval between the elections there would be any amount of intriguing and logrolling.

Mr. DALZIEL (L., Kirkcaldy Burgh) called attention to the question of a second ballot at Parliamentary elections, and moved, "That it is desirable that permission should be made for a second ballot at Parliamentary elections in all cases where no candidate can obtain an absolute majority of the votes recorded."

Mr. H. E. E. E. (L., Leominster) called attention to the importance of constructing the Monmouths Railway.

Mr. A. C. MORTON, on behalf of Mr. Broadhurst (L., Leominster): To call attention to old age pensions.

THE VOLUNTEERS.

Mr. WOODALL (L., Birmingham) to the War Office, replying to Colonel Howard Vincent (C., Shrewsbury), said a Bill to give effect, among other things, to the recommendation of the Select Committee of last session suggesting the acceptance of the services of Volunteer corps or portions of corps, in times of national emergency had been prepared, and the Secretary of War hoped to have an opportunity of introducing it shortly after Easter. (Hear, hear.)

THE OLD AGE PENSIONS COMMISSION.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN (U., Birmingham) asked the President of the Local Government Board whether the Government had considered the various reports made by members of the Royal Commission on the provision for old age, and what notice they proposed to take in regard to the question.

Mr. SEAWELL (IRELAND) (President of the Local Government Board) said the report had been in his hands for a few days, and he had given it time to peruse the contents. He would ask the right hon. gentleman to repeat for him the question.

Mr. SHAW-LEVEYRE (President of the Local Government Board) said the report had been in his hands for a long time, and he had been in it for a few days, and he had given it time to peruse the contents. He would ask the right hon. gentleman to repeat for him the question.

Mr. D. A. THOMAS WANTS AN OPINION ON TITHE ALLOCATION.

BUT THE AGED STATESMAN SHUNS CONTROVERSY.

Mr. D. A. Thomas, M.P., having written to Mr. W. E. Gladstone for an expression of opinion on the disputed question of the nationalisation or local allocation of tithe, the former of which he favours as against the latter method proposed by the Government, has received from the right hon. gentleman an autograph letter, in which he states that he is sorry he must not attempt to answer it, as the subject is much controverted. "But this," Mr. Gladstone goes on to say, "is not my reason. My reason is that by delivering from the outset a speech in defence of the tithe allocation I would be giving the public an opportunity of attacking me, and I do not want to do this." (Hear, hear.)

THE SPEAKER: Order, order. In one case it is a personal explanation, but it hardly comes within the description of what the Press Association calls a personal explanation in this House.

Mr. S. W. HARCOURT (the Chancellor of the Exchequer) said that the Government had decided that the tithe allocation should be left to the discretion of the tithe owners.

THE SPEAKER: Order, order. In one case it is a personal explanation, but it hardly comes within the description of what the Press Association calls a personal explanation in this House.

Mr. T. W. RUSSELL (U., Tyrone) asked whether the president of last year would be held liable and Ireland excluded from this Bill.

Mr. S. W. HARCOURT (the Chancellor of the Exchequer) said that the same would be followed in this case, and for the same reasons.

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THE KILLED AND WOUNDED.

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It cannot be understood how English people can reconcile the publication of such matter with their well-known assumed or real propensity on other occasions.

OSCAR WILDE'S PLAYS.

THE NAME WITHDRAWN FROM A POSTER.

In order to obtain a practical opinion as to how far the verdict is likely to affect the plaintiff's position as a dramatist, a "St. James's Gazette" representative waited upon Mr. H. Morell (of the Haymarket Theatre). Mr. Morell (writes the pressman) assumed an air of imperturbability, and pointed to a large Poster. "That is the only answer I can give."

I looked at the poster, which bore the words, "On Saturday, the 13th of April, 'An Ideal Husband' will be transferred to the Criterion Theatre."

"I fancy," I said, "I observe a change—an omission. You seem to have departed somewhat from the customary form?"

"Quite true. The author's name has disappeared from the bills, nor does it figure any longer in the advertisements in the daily papers."

"The fact is not without significance."

Mr. Morell smiled. "The press and the public must, of course, form their own conclusions as to its importance. Let me repeat, I am always charmed to see you, but this afternoon—I am out."

The hint was too strong not to be taken, and from the Haymarket I crossed to the St. James's Theatre, where, after a brief delay, Mr. George Alexander expressed himself ready to see me.

"I can guess your object in coming," he at once remarked, "but I have really little or nothing to say. I need hardly, however, insist upon the fact that our play, 'The Importance of Being Earnest,' is the most popular in the world, and does not contain a line that could hurt the tenderest susceptibilities. I am free to admit, that when first this scandal was brought about, the business here was in some measure affected; but since then it has returned to normal condition. Whether the revival of the unhappy business will cause any change the future must be left to show."

"You know, perhaps," I said, "that your neighbours, Messrs. Waller and Morell, have withdrawn Mr. Wilde's name from their bills and advertisements?"

"The same step," answered Mr. Alexander, "has been taken by myself in regard to the latter, and will also take effect in the case of the former so soon as the printers can complete the alterations."

On the question of the "St. James's Gazette's" action in closing its columns to the publication of the evidence given in court, Mr. Alexander was exceedingly emphatic. "It was quite the right thing to do," he said. "It is a crying shame that such monstrous and disgusting details should be left open to the perusal of men, women, and children, of all sorts and conditions, and I heartily applaud the course taken by the 'St. James's' in the matter."

A PERSON OF NO IMPORTANCE.

If the course of yesterday's evidence (says the "Westminster Gazette" of Friday) it may be remembered that Wilde said he was introduced to Taylor—the man whom Mr. Carson described as the pivot of the case—by a gentleman in high position, of good birth, and high repute? It may set much unpleasant speculation at rest if we state that the above was a most audacious mis-description. The "gentleman" referred to is a person of no importance, as that phrase is commonly understood; and his name, we imagine, would be totally unknown to persons of repute.

DISCORDANT REMARKS IN THE THEATRE.

Both Mr. Oscar Wilde's plays, "The Ideal Husband" and "The Importance of Being Earnest," were produced on Friday night, as usual, at the Haymarket and at the St. James's Theatre, and at neither place was there any hostile demonstration. At the latter theatre, however, it was noticed that, except in those portions of the building reserved and prepaid, the audience was much smaller than usual. In one or two places slightly discordant remarks were made, especially when reference was made to the town of Worthing, but these chiefly came from the gallery, and were of a trifling character.

OSCAR DAMNED AND DONE FOR.

"The 'Echos,'" commenting on the case, says:—And so a most miserable case is ended. Lord Queensberry is triumphant; and Mr. Oscar Wilde is "damned and done for." He may now change places with Lord Queensberry, and go into the dock himself, and have Lord Queensberry's evidence against him. He appears to have illustrated in his life the beauty and truthfulness of his teachings. He said, in cross-examination, that he considered there was no such thing as morality, and he seems to have harmonised his practice with his theory. The counsel for the prosecution, the judge, and jury are entitled to public thanks for abruptly terminating the trial; and so preventing the publication of probably revolting revelations. The best thing for everybody now is to forget all about Oscar Wilde, his repellent posings, his aesthetic teachings, and his theatrical productions. If not tried himself, let him go into silence, and be heard of no more.

BIOGRAPHY OF THE ACCUSED ORIGINATOR OF THE AESTHETIC MOVEMENT.

The plaintiff in the case which has had such a dramatic termination was born at Dublin in 1854. He is the son (yes, son) of Wm. R. Wilde, M.D., surgeon to Queen Victoria, antiquarian statistician, and author of letters, and of Jane Francesca, Lady Wilde, known as a poetess and woman of letters. Oscar Wilde was educated at Portora Royal School, Londonderry, and proceeded to Trinity College, Dublin, of which he was scholar, and on having obtained the Bachelors' gold medal for Greek went to Oxford in 1874. He obtained his B.A. at Magdalen College, a first class in classics, 1875, and a first class in grecian, and Newdigate's prize for English poetry, 1878. He went to London in 1875, and was the originator of the aesthetic movement. He published a volume of poems in 1880, and proceeded to America in 1881, where he delivered over 200 lectures on art. His drama of "Vivian" was produced in New York in 1882. "The Happy Prince and other Fables" was published in 1888. He has also contributed critical articles to the "Nineteenth Century," "The Fortnightly Review," the "Pall Mall Gazette," the "Saturday Review," "Atheneum," "Illustrated Magazine," "Macmillan's Magazine," and "Blackwood's Magazine," in which appeared a curious new theory about Shakespeare's Aeneas. He also wrote "Dorian Gray," a novel of modern life, which appeared in "Lippincott's Magazine." He has travelled a great deal in Greece and Italy. Mr. Oscar Wilde married in 1884 Constance, daughter of Mr. Horace Lloyd, Q.C., and has two male children.

AFRICAN APPOINTMENT FOR A WELSHMAN.

The "Cape Government Gazette" officially announces the Atherton diggings in the Heribert Division, and appoints Mr. Herbert Rees to act as inspector and registrar of claims.

PRIZE FIGHT AT SWANSEA.

Enoch Morrison, of Cardiff, champion of Shropshire, on Friday fought Holloge, of Swansea, for £10 outside at Samuels' Saloon. The fight was awarded to Holloge after two rounds, and he has now won seven successive contests.

WHAT CAUSES PIMPLES?

The little plug in the centre of the pimple is called a "pilose" or comedone. The only preventive and beautifying soap in the world, as well as the best soap for toilet and nursery, is the only preventive of pimpling.

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SUPERSTITION IN IRELAND.

THE WIFE MURDER TRIAL AT CLONMEL.

ONE OF THE PRISONERS DISCHARGED.

STATEMENTS BY THE OTHER PRISONERS.

At Clonmel, on Friday Colonel Evans, R.M., Colonel Rail, D.L., and Mr. Grimes, J.P., rendered the hearing of the charge of wilful murder arising out of the burning and treatment of Mrs. Bridget Cleary at Ballinaville on the 14th and 15th of March. The parties charged are Michael Cleary, husband of the deceased; Patrick Boland, father; William, Patrick, Michael, and James Kennedy, cousins; Mary Kennedy, aunt; John Dume and William Aleman. In addition Denis Ganey is charged as an accessory before the fact.

Mr. Crean, of Fethard, examined, said that on the 13th of March he attended the wife of Michael Cleary on a dispensary ticket. She was suffering from slight bronchial catarrh and nervous excitement. He subsequently held a post-mortem examination on the body, in conjunction with Dr. Heffernan. He found the spleen ruptured, and an effusion of blood on the covering of the brain. He could not say whether it was the result of violence. The cause of the death was the burns he had described. No analysis of the contents of the stomach was made, as the coroner did not consider it necessary. He did not think Ganey did the woman any harm.

Colonel Evans: Oh, we cannot enter into that.

Corroborative evidence was given by Dr. Heffernan.

Mr. Crean, solicitor, said he proposed to examine two witnesses on behalf of Denis.

Colonel Evans, after consulting his colleagues, said that they were of opinion that there was no evidence against Denis Ganey, and at the present stage they would be bound to refuse an information against him.

Mr. Crean said that, under these circumstances, he would not call the witness.

Colonel Evans then directed Ganey to be discharged, and he left the dock.

Mr. Hanrahan asked that a similar course be taken as regards his client, William.

Before giving their decision in this matter the magistrates directed the depositions of the various witnesses to be read over to the accused, which was done, and at the close of the evidence Ganey was acquitted, said he deserved to examine a witness.

Mr. Edward Anglin was then sworn, and examined, by Michael Kennedy, said that Michael Kennedy was in his employment on the 13th of March, and had been in his employ for two years.

He remembered me asking you for money for the purpose of bringing it to my mother on the 14th of March?—Yes.

He then compelled her to write and invite Robert to his house to bring him to the dock.

Michael Kennedy: That is all I have to say.

Colonel Evans said that this evidence hardly affected the charge brought against him.

Michael Kennedy: It affects me, because my mother was in the house of Bridget Cleary, and as she was there I was obliged to go to the dock.

The prisoners were then several asked whether they had any statement to make.

Michael Cleary said, "Yes." (This is in reference to the statement of his wife.)

He then gave his evidence, and said he deserved to be tried as a witness.

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